Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: -

BIRD

Names:

1 Gallus gallus var. domestics Meleagris gallopavo Numida meleagris

Chicken Turkey Helmeted Guineafowl

DESCRIPTION:

A description of three galliform feather types commonly found in the trade.

Feathers commonly appear as adornment to craft items and artwork (dreamcatchers, baskets, weavings, headdresses/bonnets, etc.). Feathers of domestic fowl, which are unprotected by state or federal law, are sometimes mistaken for feathers of protected species. Recognition of the three galliform feather types described here will assist field officers by conserving law enforcement resources for protected species,

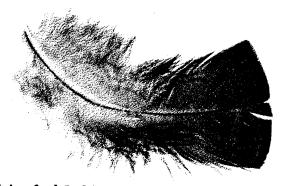
Chicken (hackle)

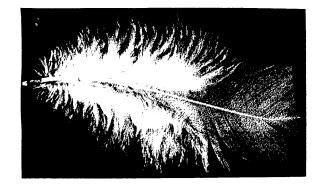
Feather flexuous. Pennaceous portion attenuate and distinctly fringed, creating a central "V'. Down dense, "window" around rachis; afterfeather may be present or removed. Color highly variable; natural (white, black, brown, iridescent green) or dyed. Pennaceous barbs maybe bicolored ("V" and fringe different colors).



Turkey (body)

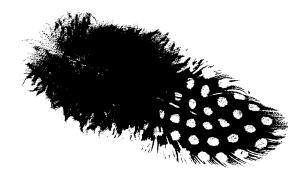
Tip (pennaceous barbs) square, often with very short fringe. Down dense, "window" around rachis; afterfeather maybe present or removed. Color variable; natural (white or brown with slender black bars and iridescent/black subterminal band) or dyed.

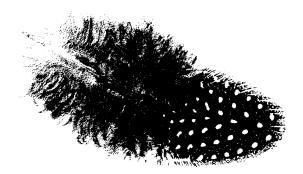




Guineafowl (body)

Tip rounded. Pennaceous portion spotted; spots light (white or dyed), sometimes surrounded by smaller speckles; background black. Down dense; color grey or dyed.





Submitted by: Beth Ann Sabo, Morphology Unit, USFWS-LE Forensics Lab

Date submitted 1 / 22